**Starvation deaths in Orissa**

878. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 88 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 1997 and State:

(a) whether any other private agency or Government Organisation other than the State Government has investigated the cases of starvation deaths in those districts; and

(b) if so, the details of their findings during that period?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**Mismanagement in IAY in Orissa**

879. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing mismanagement in the construction and repairing of houses under 'Indira Awas Yojana' in the tribal populated districts of Orissa in general and Nawarangpur in particular; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such mismanagement?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Development of wasteland in Rajasthan**

880. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of programmes/ projects etc. launched by Government during the preceding five years for development of wasteland in Rajasthan; and

(b) what schemes have been launched for the current year and the Ninth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) The Department of Wastelands Development have launched various schemes namely (I) Integrated Watelands Development Project (IWDP); (II) Grant-in-aid and (III) Technology Development, Extension and Training during the preceding five years for the development of wastelands in Rajasthan.

(b) No new schemes have been proposed in the current year as well as during the Ninth Plan Period.

**Watershed development programmes in North-eastern region**

881. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of projects/schemes etc. launched by Government in the North-eastern region, State-wise, for watershed development programmes; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Diversification/Marketing of Jute products**

882. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive plan for diversification of jute products and marketing the same has been made by his Ministry as reported in the Statesman dated 10th July, 1997;

(b) whether the same is to be implemented through Jute Corporation of India; and

(c) the salient features of the plan including the investments planned and likely date of commencement of implementation of the plan by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, have launched a National Jute Programme for diversification and marketing of jute products in assistance with United Nations Development Programme